



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

DETECTIVE BRANCH OF THE POLICE SERVICE.

in 4. Of the 24 imbeciles examined, 15 were normal; 4 showed pallor or edema; 1, slight indistinctness of the disc and 1 well-marked atrophy. Of the 53 idiots examined, normal fundi were found in only 2, pallor and edema was found in 13 cases, general congestion in 1, general pallor in 8, optic atrophy 3, dilated veins in 1, choked disc, thrombosis of the central vein, retinal congestion, retinal hemorrhage in 1 each.

The conclusion of the investigators is that there is a well-marked neural as well as psychic degeneration in the great majority of all cases of idiocy. The research is submitted as a contribution to the clinico-pathologic study of degeneration. F. G.

A NEW BERTILLON INVENTION.—It is announced that M. Bertillon, head of the identification department of the Prefecture of Police in Paris, who has contributed so much to the methods for apprehending and identifying criminals, has recently invented a new contrivance for the detection of persons who are accustomed to prey upon the unsuspecting public. It is a machine for measuring blows struck by burglars, whether on a door or on the head of a human being. It is described as consisting "of two dynamometers, which are placed at right angles, so that either the pressure or the horizontal traction can be measured. The method in vogue enables the measurer to transfer the power of the blow upon any other instrument or person that may be selected.

"The practical value of the invention lies in being able to determine positively in cases of men who have been arrested on suspicion only whether they could have dealt a certain kind of blow with a supposed weapon. This is considered as being of the greatest possible use to the police in detecting crime and in the solving what heretofore have almost been impossible problems to be dealt with. The thief and the thug will be the more readily detected with M. Bertillon's latest invention." J. W. G.

THE DETECTIVE BRANCH OF THE POLICE SERVICE.—Daniel G. Slattery, secretary to former Police Commissioner Bingham of New York City, is the author of an article recently contributed to the Boston *Transcript*, dealing with the poor quality of the American detective force. In the first place, he says, the profession is too poorly paid. New York City pays its best detectives \$2,000 a year. No other city pays more, and the average is about \$1,000. The force is usually recruited from the ranks of laborers, and the wonder is that the results are as good as they are. Speaking of the "stool pigeon" (an informer who has no sense of moral responsibility and who will "peach on a pal as soon as he would on any other thief"), Mr. Slattery says:

"The 'stool pigeon' detective is a necessary evil and always will continue so. No detective force of any size could get along without 'stool pigeons,' unless the men who composed the force were all high-grade men with the mentality a first-grade detective ought to have. The ideal force would be one that was evenly made up of both kinds of detectives. The brainy sleuth then could do the reasoning and the analytical work that would be sure to produce results, and the 'stool pigeon' detective could keep on doing what he has been doing for many years. The class of men who are doing detective work in every city of any size would not amount to shucks—some of them don't as it is—unless they could get information from thieves. The thief who becomes an informer expects something in return and he gets it either in money or favors. The detective cannot afford to pay for this information out of his own pocket,